

Message Text

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14

ACTION FBO-05

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P R 131050Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4241

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, ASEC, AFSP

SUBJ: PROPOSED CONSULAR ANNEX PROPERTY 06460

REF.: STATE 302534, NEW DELHI 1391

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY IS OF THE OPINION THAT CONSULAR ANNEX CAN BE BUILT FOR APPROXIMATELY \$25,000 TO \$35,000. ANNEX WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE PLANNING STAGE FOR OVER A YEAR NOW IS CONSIDERED AN EXTENSION OF THE RENOVATION/CONSTRUCTION OF THE PRESENT CHANCERY BUILDING (CONTRACT S-671-FA-135). ALTHOUGH PROJECT MAY REQUIRE DOLLAR ALLOCATION, ALL LOCAL MATERIALS TO BE USED ARE PAID FOR IN LOCAL CURRENCY OBTAINED BY THE US DISBURSING OFFICER THROUGH EXCHANGE OF INDIAN CURRENCY. SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE UPPERMOST IN ASSIGNING PRIORITY TO THIS PROJECT. END SUMMARY

2. THE PROPOSED CONSULAR ANNEX WAS FIRST DISCUSSED WITH FBO SUPERVISOR NEW DELHI OVER A YEAR AGO. PLANS FOR THE ANNEX WERE SVENTUALLY DRAWN AND FORWARDED TO FBO WASHINGTON LAST SUMMER. ESTIMATED COSTS OF THIS SIMPLE, ONE-STOREY, BRICK AND CONCRETE, 36 FT BY 36 FT STRUCTURE, HOUSING THREE EMPLOYEES IS BETWEEN \$25,000 TO \$35,000. THIS FIGURE BASED ON LOCAL CONDITIONS AND MATERIALS. CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER MATERIALS TO BE USED ARE ALL

LOCALLY AVAILABLE AND WILL BE PAID FOR IN NEPALESE LOCAL

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CURRENCY. SUCH CURRENCY IS OBTAINED THROUGH EXCHANGE

OF INDIAN CURRENCY BY THE EMBASSY U.S. DISBURSING OFFICER. WHILE NO U.S. DOLLARS ARE USED, PRESUMABLY A DOLLAR ALLOCATION IS REQUIRED FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

3. THE STRUCTURE WILL GREATLY IMPROVE NOT ONLY THE SECURITY OF THE CONSULAR OFFICER, BUT WILL CENTRALIZE EMBASSY OPERATIONS IN ONE LOCATION. THE STRUCTURE WILL ALSO BE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PRESENT RATHER DILAPIDATED STORE-FRONT TYPE, LEASED QUARTERS OF THE CONSULATE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES FROM THE CHANCERY. THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF THE CONSULAR OFFICER AND STAFF CANNOT BE TOO STRONGLY EMPHASIZED AS A MAJOR CONCERN RELEVANT TO THIS PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION. LAST WEEK DURING A TERRORIST ALERT, BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED THROUGH RELIABLE SOURCES, THE EMBASSY HAD TO DRASTICALLY LIMIT THE SERVICES OF THE CONSULAR SECTION AND WITHDREW THE CONSULAR OFFICER TO THE EMBASSY. THE CONSULAR OFFICER WORKED OUT OF THE EMBASSY DURING THIS PERIOD OF 7 DAYS.

4. ACCORDING TO FBO/W, FUNDING FOR THE CONSULAR ANNEX WOULD HAVE TO BE BACKED BY DOLLARS AS EXCESS INDIAN RUPEES CANNOT BE USED FOR THIS PROJECT. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ACTUAL COSTS FOR THIS BUILDING WOULD BE MET FROM THE LARGE INDIAN RUPEE HOLDINGS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO THE USG. THE USDO HAS SIX MILLION NEPALESE RUPEES ON DEPOSIT WHICH WERE PURCHASED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS FOR USE IN PAYMENT OF CHANCERY BUILDING RENOVATION CONSTRUCTION COSTS AS WELL AS OTHER COSTS OF OPERATIONS HERE. THE COSTS OF THE RENOVATION/CONSTRUCTION AT THE CHANCERY BUILDING WERE PAID FOR IN LOCAL CURRENCY FOR NEPALESE OR INDIAN PURCHASED MATERIALS.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, EMBASSY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE POSITIVE ACTION ON ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO BEGIN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONSULAR ANNEX AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CARGO

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